

REMARKS

1. In response to the Advisory Action mailed July 15, 2004, and an Examiner Interview conducted July 27, 2004, Applicants submit this Preliminary Amendment for entry prior to examination of the concurrently-filed RCE application.
2. Claims 21-46 were last presented for examination. In the outstanding Office Action mailed April 7, 2004, claims 21, 29 and 38 were rejected. Claims 31-37 and 42-46 were allowed and claims 22-28, 30 and 39-41 were objected to. By the foregoing Amendments, claims 21, 26, 27, 28, and 38 have been amended. No claims have been added or canceled. Accordingly, upon entry of this paper, claims 21-46 will remain pending in this application. Of these 26 claims, four claims (claim 21, 31, 38 and 42) are independent. Based on the following Amendments and Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding objections and rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.
3. In the above-noted Interview, Applicants' undersigned representative and Examiner discussed the interpretation of the claim term "attached" and the applied reference, U.S. Patent No. 6,047,123 to Brown *et al.* (hereinafter, "Brown"). The undersigned and Examiner referenced paragraphs 10-15 of Applicants' application, which describe in detail the drawbacks associated with linking conventional intercept libraries.
4. Traditionally, to invoke the functionality of a procedure such as Brown's DLLs, two things must be achieved. First, the DLL has to be linked or attached to the application program. Once linked, the procedure can be enabled or disabled as desired. In the Advisory Action, the Examiner improperly equated these two operations; that is, linking and enabling/disabling.
5. To implement conventional intercept libraries, such as Brown's interceptor 34, to a graphics system requires the application program to be interrupted and relinked, or stopped and reinitiated. For example, in Brown, operator action is required to link Brown's intercept library 34 to the application program prior to execution of Browns' graphics application 30. As noted in the above-referenced portions of Applicants' application, such

an approach prevents the linked procedure from capturing unpredictable behavior in the application program.

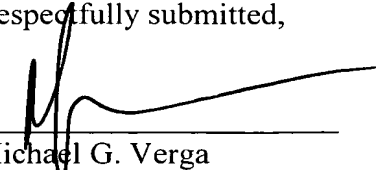
6. Thus, conventional approaches such as that described in Brown, are not “configured to attach the graphics diagnostic tool to at least one selected portion of the computer graphics system during normal operations of a currently-executing graphics application” as recited in Applicants’ claim 21 or “while a graphics application is executing on the graphics system” as recited in Applicants’ claim 38. Nor does Brown disclose, teach or suggest doing so and “without interruption to the normal operations of an executing graphics application” as recited in Applicants’ claims 21 and 38.

7. Based on the above, the Examiner indicated that the claims appear to distinguish over Brown. However, the Examiner indicated that he found the term “attached” to be confusing or may be misleading, and requested that the term be changed to “link.” Because the two terms are defined as having the same meaning, and are used interchangeably in Applicants’ application, such a change does not alter the scope of the current claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the claims as requested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the application is in condition for allowance.

8. The Examiner indicated that he will contact the undersigned upon entry of the RCE application and this Preliminary Amendment should the Examiner have any questions regarding the above.

9. In view of the foregoing, this application should be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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